

## ABSTRACT

[0065] The present invention provides for controlling the order in which packets received from across a network may be processed. A receiver station examines the packets and determines a property of the packet. A priority level is associated with the packet prior to processing. The packet is placed into a queue and processed in an order based at least in part on its priority level. The method may be used to expedite or slow the processing of particular packets, such as advancing the processing order for acknowledgment packets. In addition, other aspects of the present invention relating to determining an order for processing packets by a receiver station.